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*Constructive Rural Sociology.* By JOHN M. GILLETTE. New York: Sturgis & Walton Co., 1913. 8vo, pp. xiii+301. \$1.60.

The author not only presents this work as a text for colleges and normal schools, but hopes that its non-technical treatment will convey valuable suggestions to farmers as well. Conceiving sociology as a study of the well-being of society, and the term "rural" to include all interests not strictly urban in nature, he covers a wide range of rural problems. These may thus relate to the purely technological aspects of farming and marketing, or to such social and institutional questions as would naturally arise in rural communities. A definite program for improvement is usually coupled with his analysis. Recognizing the inevitable trend of population toward the city as a phase of our industrial development, he conceives the real rural problem to be the improvement of the condition of those persons who remain on the farm. The extensive character of the treatment makes it appear somewhat superficial at times. Statements of controverted facts are set forth unguardedly and there appears to be a lack of critical selection in the material employed. However, this admirably clear and compact survey of such a wide range of agricultural problems should afford a convenient introduction for further intensive studies in this field.

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*The Social Policy of Bismarck.* A Critical Study, with a Comparison of German and English Insurance Legislation. By ANNIE ASHLEY. (Vol. III of "Birmingham Studies in Social Economics and Adjacent Fields.") London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1912. 8vo, pp. vii+92. \$0.75 net.

For one who is interested in obtaining a brief survey of the origin and substance of German insurance legislation this book will be of considerable value. In it particular attention is paid to the social policy of Bismarck, who may be considered as the real author of the German social insurance system. Bismarck's life and character are admirably delineated with regard to his social views. The German social insurance system is outlined, in its historical development as well as in its present organization. The author completes her study by a comparison of German and English insurance legislation, pointing out and accounting for their chief divergencies.

The book deserves attention for its sound reasoning as well as for its clear and vivid description.